

READING FIRST

ASSURANCES

In accordance with Title I, Section B, Subpart 1 of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), Reading First Program, the LEA assures the Rhode Island Department of Education that:

- a) program funds will be used only to supplement and, to the extent practical, increase the level of funds that would, in the absence of the Federal funds, be made available from non-Federal (State and Local) sources for the education of participating students. In no case, may an LEA use Federal program funds to supplant funds from non-Federal sources;
- b) the applicant will comply with all operational requirements of the Reading First program. The program will be administered in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications;
- c) the control of funds provided under each covered program and title to property acquired with program funds will be in a public agency or in a nonprofit private agency, institution, organization, if the law authorizing the program provides for assistance to such entities; and

the public agency, nonprofit private agency, institution or organization will administer such funds and property to the extent required by the authorizing statutes;
- d) the applicant will adopt and use proper methods of administering the program including:
 - 1) the enforcement of any obligations imposed by law on agencies, institutions, organizations and recipients responsible for carrying out each program; and
 - 2) the correction of deficiencies in program operations that are identified through audits, monitoring or evaluation;
- e) the applicant will cooperate in carrying out any evaluations of each program conducted by or for the State Educational Agency, the Secretary of Education, or other Federal officials;
- f) the applicant will use such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as will ensure proper disbursement of and accounting for, Federal funds paid to such applicant under each such program;
- g) the applicant will:
 - 1) make reports to the State educational agency and the Secretary of Education as may be necessary to enable such agency and the Secretary to perform their duties under each such program;
 - 2) maintain such records, provide such information, and afford access to the records as the SEA or the Secretary may find necessary to carry out the SEA's or the Secretary's duties;

h) the applicant will:

- 1) Conduct the program in grades K-3 only;
- 2) Provide funds only to those schools that have the highest percentage of fourth grade students not meeting the standard on the NEW Standards Reference Examination in reading and have the highest percentage of students for allocations under Title I, Part A.
- 3) Purchase and use only supplemental materials, technology programs, or staff development programs that support the scientific research-based, adopted reading/language arts instructional program.
- 4) Develop and implement an assessment plan for all Reading First schools based on valid and reliable instructional assessments from the recommended list as noted in Appendix C, Reading Assessments for Rhode Island Reading First.
- 5) Comply with all of the duties specified in the enclosed application and as detailed in Appendices A, B and C.
- 6) Limit the use of funds to children from eligible schools.
- 7) Provide instruction in reading for children with reading difficulties who
 - (1) are at-risk of being referred to special education based on these difficulties; or
 - (2) have been evaluated under section 614 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act but, in accordance with section 614 (b)(5) of such Act, have not been identified as being a child with a disability (as defined in section 602 of the Act).
- 8) Conduct professional development for the classroom teacher and other instructional staff on the teaching of reading based on scientifically-based reading research.
- 9) Coordinate all reading efforts within a school including those reading programs and initiatives funded with any state, regional, or local funds, as well as, federally funded programs such as Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- 10) Participate in the state evaluation of Reading First.
- 11) Consult with private schools regarding the LEA's Reading First Program, and if appropriate, services will be coordinated in compliance with Section 9501 of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Signature

Date

Superintendent

Program Director

CIVIL RIGHTS ASSURANCES

All recipients of assistance under this grant shall comply with the following Federal and State civil rights statutes and regulations:

- a) 42 USC, Sections 1981 and 1983 (...acts prohibited on the basis of race);
- b) Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (...act prohibited on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin);
- c) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, 20 United States Code 1681 et. Seq. (acts prohibited on the basis of sex);
- d) 42 USC, Section 1601 et eq. (...acts prohibited on the basis of age) ;
- e) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 20 USC 794 (... acts prohibited on the basis of handicap);
- f) 24 USC, Section 12100 et seq. [The Americans with Disabilities Act] (... acts prohibited on the basis of disability);
- g) Section 16-38-1 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended (discrimination because of race or age);
- h) Section 16-38-1.1 of the Rhode Island General Laws, and amended (discrimination because of sex);
- i) Chapter 42-87 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended (Civil Rights of Individuals with Handicaps); and
- j) Sections 28-5.1-13 and 28-5.1-14 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended (Private education institutions – compliance with state policy of non-discrimination and affirmative action).

Signature

Date

Superintendent

Program Director

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND
VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION – LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS**

This certification is required by the Department of Education regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 34 CFR Part 85, for all lower tier transactions meeting the threshold and tier requirement stated at Section 85.110.

Certification:

- 1) The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- 2) Were the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Signature

Date

Superintendent

Program Director